



# Selected Nearshore Fishes of California

*The Species Pursuant to Regulation Section 1.90 for 2001*

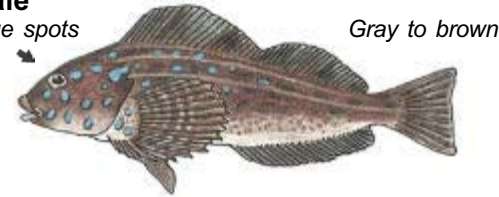
**Female**



Red flecking

**Male**

Blue spots



Gray to brown

**KELP GREENLING** *Hexagrammos decagrammus*

**Range:** Alaska to southern CA

**Depth:** Shallow water to 150 ft.

**Grows to:** 21 in.

Greenish to brown with darker mottling  
and often red blotches  
on head and sides

Cirrus



**ROCK GREENLING** *Hexagrammos lagocephalus*

**Range:** Bering Sea to central CA

**Depth:** Intertidal and shallow rocky areas

**Grows to:** 24 in.

Lumpy ridge  
on head

Black, olive or gray with rusty  
blotches along the body



**MONKEYFACE PRICKLEBACK** *Cebidichthys violaceus*

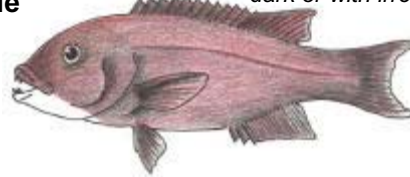
**Range:** Southern Oregon to north-central Baja CA

**Depth:** Shallow water to 80 ft.

**Grows to:** 30 in.

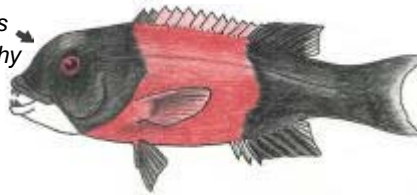
**Female**

Brownish red to rose, sometimes very  
dark or with irregular bars



**Male**

Sometimes  
with a fleshy  
lump on  
head



**CALIFORNIA SHEEPHEAD** *Semicossyphus pulcher*

**Range:** Central CA to Gulf of CA

**Depth:** Shallow water to 180 ft.

**Grows to:** 36 in.

Cirrus  
Nasal  
flap

Red, brown or green  
mottling



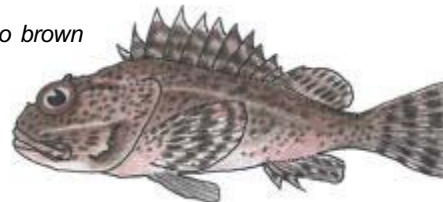
**CABEZON** *Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*

**Range:** Alaska to central Baja CA

**Depth:** Intertidal to 250 ft.

**Grows to:** 39 in.

Red to brown

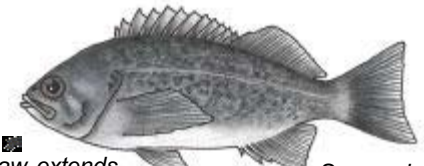


**CALIFORNIA SCORPIONFISH** *Scorpaena guttata*

**Range:** Central CA to Gulf of CA

**Depth:** Shallow water to 600 ft.

**Grows to:** 17 in.



Upper jaw extends  
to middle of eye

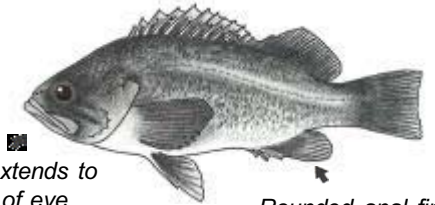
Squared  
anal fin

**BLUE ROCKFISH** *Sebastes mystinus*

**Range:** Alaska to northern Baja CA

**Depth:** Shallow water to 1800 ft.

**Grows to:** 21 in.



Upper jaw extends to  
or past rear of eye

Rounded anal fin

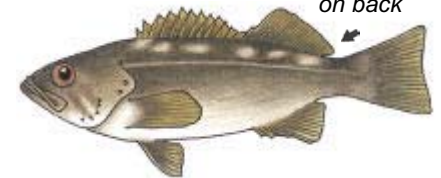
**BLACK ROCKFISH** *Sebastes melanops*

**Range:** Alaska to southern CA

**Depth:** Shallow water to 1200 ft.

**Grows to:** 25.5 in.

Whitish blotches  
on back



Olive

**OLIVE ROCKFISH** *Sebastes serranoides*

**Range:** Northern CA to central Baja CA

**Depth:** Shallow water to 480 ft.

**Grows to:** 24 in.

Layout & Design by: Briana C. Brady  
Pictures from: DFG Fish Bulletin 157  
Artwork by: Lorraine Sinclair  
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Pale blotches



**GOPHER ROCKFISH** *Sebastes carnatus*

**Range:** Northern CA to central Baja CA

**Depth:** Shallow water to 180 ft.

**Grows to:** 16.7 in.

Yellow blotches



**BLACK-AND-YELLOW ROCKFISH** *Sebastes chrysomelas*

**Range:** Northern CA to central Baja CA

**Depth:** Intertidal to 50 ft.

**Grows to:** 15.25 in.

Pink lips



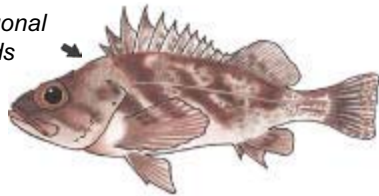
**TREEFISH** *Sebastes serriceps*

**Range:** Central CA to central Baja CA

**Depth:** Shallow water to 150 ft.

**Grows to:** 16 in.

Diagonal bands



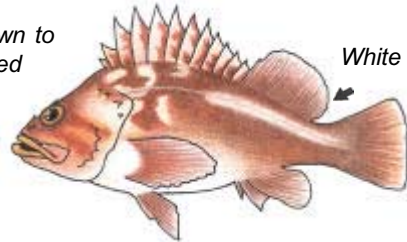
**CALICO ROCKFISH** *Sebastes dallii*

**Range:** Central CA to central Baja CA

**Depth:** 60 - 840 ft.

**Grows to:** 10 in.

Dark brown to orange-red



White band

**COPPER ROCKFISH** *Sebastes caurinus*

**Range:** Alaska to central Baja CA

**Depth:** Shallow water to 600 ft.

**Grows to:** 22.9 in.

Bluish-white speckles



**CHINA ROCKFISH** *Sebastes nebulosus*

**Range:** Alaska to southern CA

**Depth:** 10 - 420 ft.

**Grows to:** 17 in.

Large mottled orange area



Tall spines

**QUILLBACK ROCKFISH** *Sebastes maliger*

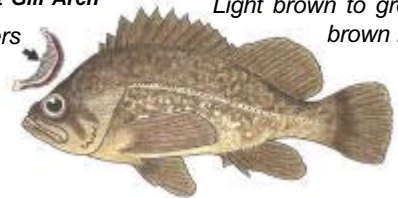
**Range:** Alaska to central CA

**Depth:** Shallow water to 900 ft.

**Grows to:** 24 in.

1st Gill Arch

Long gill rakers



Light brown to greenish-brown mottling

**KELP ROCKFISH** *Sebastes atrovirens*

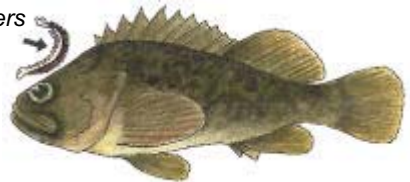
**Range:** Northern CA to central Baja CA

**Depth:** Shallow water to 150 ft.

**Grows to:** 16.7 in.

1st Gill Arch

Short gill rakers



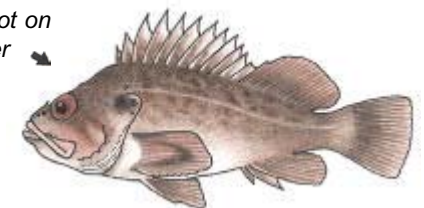
**GRASS ROCKFISH** *Sebastes rastrelliger*

**Range:** Oregon to central Baja CA

**Depth:** Intertidal to 150 ft.

**Grows to:** 22 in.

Dark spot on gill cover



**BROWN ROCKFISH** *Sebastes auriculatus*

**Range:** Alaska to central Baja CA

**Depth:** Shallow water to 420 ft.

**Grows to:** 21.5 in.

## Additional Identification References:

-DFG Fish Bulletin 157: Miller & Lea, 1972

-Petersen Field Guide Series #28,  
Eschmeyer et al., 1983

## Contact Information:

-Web site [www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/)

-Phone (831) 649-2801

*All Anglers: Limits, minimum sizes, and other regulations exist for various species. Please check the California Fishing Regulations for specifics. These 19 species are subject to change.*